

**Review Jn. 20:31.** Look at Jesus: What did God say about Him? Always existing, the Word, face to face with God, is God :1-2, Creator :3, Life, the always shining Light :4-5, became flesh :14, physically born after John in terms of time yet existed before him :15,30, the only begotten God :18. What did John the Baptist say about Him? The Lamb of God :29,36, the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit :33, the Son of God :34,49. What did Jesus' earliest disciples say about Him? Rabbi/teacher :38,49, Messiah/Christ :41, Him of whom Moses and the prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, son of Joseph :45, King of Israel :49. The Son of God :49. What did Jesus say about Himself? Son of Man :51. The Gospel of John is all about JESUS! May we be the same!

**Read :29-34. :29 The next day** [the day after John's interaction with the religious leaders] **he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!** Every morning and evening and especially on Feast days there were lambs sacrificed in the temple (Ex. 29:38-42). It was for the sins of the people (Lev. 5:5-7, 17:11). **Behold** (be sure to see; don't miss this!)! Jesus would be the sacrificial lamb, for the sin (singular) of the world (not just the sin of Israel!), the world of perishing, blinded, unbelieving people (2 Cor. 4:3-4). John recognized Jesus as the Lamb of God!

**:30 This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who (lit. has become before me) has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'** Jesus, who has always existed, is superior in time and importance. See 1:15.

**:31 I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water."** Even I didn't recognize who Jesus was" (Jesus and John were relatives born 6 months apart so they knew each other). John came to know who Jesus truly was only through revelation. He 'recognized' Jesus when he saw the sign mentioned in :32-33. John's ministry was to lead his hearers to repentance for forgiveness (Mk. 1:4) and to reveal Jesus to Israel.

**:32 John testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, & He remained upon Him.** The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him (Is. 11:1-2); "the Spirit of the Lord is upon Me" (Lk. 4:18). In the OT, the Holy Spirit would come upon a person for a specific purpose. Today the Spirit comes to reside permanently in a Christian to strengthen, encourage, comfort, help him/her. Just think, the same Spirit who remained on Jesus is the One who lives within us!

**:33 I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in (with, by) water said to me, "He upon whom you see the Spirit descending & remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit."** "All I've done is baptize you with water. He's going to baptize in/with/by the Holy Spirit." Baptize = to dip or submerge or place into. Up to that point Jesus had done nothing to show Himself in terms of who He truly was, but the Spirit descending and remaining upon Jesus changed John's understanding. Jesus is the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit.

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are claiming that he is characterized by that very thing. God's own Son (1:14, 18, 3:16-18, 5:25-26, 17:5, 19:7, 20:31, 1 Jn. 4:9). John had been convinced that the Man Jesus was the Son of God and the Lamb of God who would deal with sin and baptize with the Spirit! The function of a witness is simply to give the facts!

Jesus is the fulfiller of all the promises/predictions of the OT. He is the answer to all the sacrifices. He is who everyone needs. What we need is God's Lamb, who only can deal with our sin. We need the One who baptizes in the Spirit because we are absolutely helpless without the life and resources that Jesus is and the Spirit gives. What we need is God's Son, because the Son is the only One who can show us the Father and take us to Him.

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Two of his disciples, Andrew and John (the writer of this book) plus the Baptist were standing together when they saw Jesus walking. John again said these words, "**Behold, the Lamb of God!** There He is, the One I've been testifying about!" He'd been preparing others for this moment for some time.

We need to find Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and think about who Jesus is and what He did. Here was the Word who became flesh, dwelt among mankind, and "**we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth...the only begotten God (1:14,18)!** How would you have responded? Hopefully as Andrew and John did. They followed Jesus! "Faith is the indispensable precondition for knowledge." This is what life and Christianity are all about, following Jesus!

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By asking the simplest yet profound questions, Jesus forces us to think about what we truly want in life. "What do you seek; what are you looking for?" Later he'll ask a man who's been sick for 38 years: "Do you wish to get well?"

"Rabbi/teacher (a title of respect), where are You staying?" And Jesus opens the door wide for them: "Come and see." When we come by faith, we'll see.

The writer remembers that day and even the hour. At 10:00 a.m. on a particular day, life became the adventure of following Jesus. When was your day?

Along with John the Baptist's testimony, we now have three more witnesses: Andrew, Philip, and Nathanael (Bartholomew in the other three Gospels).

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Andrew, a fisherman from the city of Bethsaida, is Simon's brother. He introduces his brother Simon to Jesus! "We've found the Messiah, the Christ, God's anointed One!" They are titles & not a personal name of Jesus. This is all we have to do: tell others we've found Jesus, the Savior, the Lord. "Though often inadequate, if it is a witness to JESUS, then it's not without fruit!"

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**Read :43-51. :43-44 The next day He purposed to go into Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow Me." :44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter.** This is the 4<sup>th</sup> day. Bethsaida was on the NE shore of the Sea of Galilee. From being where John was baptizing, to the place where Jesus was staying, Jesus is now in Galilee. "**Philip, follow Me.**" Show our faith by our obedience (in that order). Do what He asks. With our eyes on Jesus, we just have to begin the adventure of following Him.

Andrew found Simon; Jesus found Philip. **:45 [Then] Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."** Look at Philip's words: We've found the One of whom Moses and all the prophets speak! You can't understand the OT unless you see Jesus in their writings. Jesus is the fulfillment of the OT: **Dt. 18:15-18, Lk. 24:44,45, Acts 10:43, 18:28, 26:22-23, Rom. 1:2, 1 Cor. 15:3-4, Heb. 1:1-2a, 1 Pet. 1:10-11**. Moses wrote about Him; so did the prophets. What's His name? Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph (Jesus' legal, though not his natural, father).

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"I saw you under the fig tree." Either insight the Father had given Him or just saw him with His eyes, over there talking with Philip. **:49 Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are THE Son of THE God; You are THE King of Israel."** Before the interview was even over, Nathanael confessed Jesus as the Son of God, the King of Israel. Jesus was nothing less than GOD's own Son, plus the King of Israel, the current expectation of what the Jewish Messiah would be.

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Jesus spoke differently to each of these disciples, meeting them where they were. Jesus meets us where we are and will take us on.

Review the opening paragraph on page 1. Here is the Word of God who became flesh. "The 'Jesus of history' is the 'Christ of faith'." He's introduced by John the Baptist, Andrew, John, Philip, and Nathanael. May we be added to those witnesses.

Following Him means you trust Him, you obey Him, you put yourself in His hands. That's faith: the only thing that pleases our God (**Heb. 11:6**). In what ways does this passage renew your mind (**Rom. 12:2**)? What impact does this passage have on your daily walk with Jesus? What is one way the descriptions of Jesus impact you? What do you say about Jesus?

## John 1:29-51 INTRO

I'd like to begin this study by sharing some conclusions I've been drawing since I've begun studying the Gospel of John. As I look back over my life, I think I went as far as I could go with the information I had—becoming a Christian, no idea of who I was as a Christian or how to walk as the Christian I was. I was raised in church. I have a 10-year perfect attendance pin! I went on two mission trips. I went to seminary. Then God brought Ray Stedman (**Eph. 4:1-16**) and Bob Smith (“What does God have to say about this?”) into my life. As years went by, I learned identity (**Rom. 5-6** and a book titled *Birthright* by David Needham) and how to walk (**Gal. 5:16-6:2, Rom. 7-8, and Eph. 5:18**). Later as I was studying **Hebrews**, I learned the new covenant (FHIDLS). I am still trying to go as far as I can with the information I have. That's why I'm more fascinated and in love with Jesus today than I've ever been before. That's growth. That's longing like a newborn baby for the pure milk of God's Word.

It's still taking place today as I am getting to know Jesus better and better through the studies of Ephesians and especially of John. We see this with John the Baptist and some of his followers. It's a journey. Jesus met each of them (and me) where they (I) was, and is taking them (me) on from there. I think it's a journey that will last through all eternity.

In dealing with others, figure out where the person is and take them on to the Jesus of the Bible. That's what Jesus has done and is doing with me. That's what we can/should be doing with others. Just share your story of your walk with Jesus. If they are not Christians, always be pointing them to the Jesus of the Bible—who He is, what He's done, what He's still doing. If they are Christians, immature or mature, always be pointing to the Jesus of the Bible. Get to know our Lord's Word well—it'll continuing changing our lives! We'll see this today with John the Baptist, Andrew, Peter, Philip, and Nathaniel. Jesus met them where they were, and took them forward to knowing Him in depth, that began with a 3½ year journey and continued throughout their lives.

Where are you in your journey with our Lord, this adventure of knowing the Lord Jesus?

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**:32 John testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, & He remained upon Him.** The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him (Is. 11:1-2); "the Spirit of the Lord is upon Me" (Lk. 4:18). In the OT, the Holy Spirit would come upon a person for a specific purpose. Today the Spirit comes to reside permanently in a Christian to strengthen, encourage, comfort, help him/her. Just think, the same Spirit who remained on Jesus is the One who lives within us!

**:33 I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in (with, by) water said to me, "He upon whom you see the Spirit descending & remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit."** "All I've done is baptize you with water. He's going to baptize in/with/by the Holy Spirit." Baptize = to dip or submerge or place into. Up to that point Jesus had done nothing to show Himself in terms of who He truly was, but the Spirit descending and remaining upon Jesus changed John's understanding. Jesus is the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit.

**:34 I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of (the) God."** "I saw and the vision is still before my eyes (perfect tense); I testified and my testimony still stands." Along with the Father's witness, John testifies also: Jesus is the Son of the God! If you call someone the son of something, you

**Review Jn. 20:31.** Look at Jesus: What did God say about Him? Always existing, the Word, face to face with God, is God :1-2, Creator :3, Life, the always shining Light :4-5, became flesh :14, physically born after John in terms of time yet existed before him :15,30, the only begotten God :18. What did John the Baptist say about Him? The Lamb of God :29,36, the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit :33, the Son of God :34,49. What did Jesus' earliest disciples say about Him? Rabbi/teacher :38,49, Messiah/Christ :41, Him of whom Moses and the prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, son of Joseph :45, King of Israel :49. The Son of God :49. What did Jesus say about Himself? Son of Man :51. The Gospel of John is all about JESUS! May we be the same!

**Read :29-34. :29 The next day** [the day after John's interaction with the religious leaders] **he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!** Every morning and evening and especially on Feast days there were lambs sacrificed in the temple (Ex. 29:38-42). It was for the sins of the people (Lev. 5:5-7, 17:11). **Behold** (be sure to see; don't miss this!)! Jesus would be the sacrificial lamb, for the sin (singular) of the world (not just the sin of Israel!), the world of perishing, blinded, unbelieving people (2 Cor. 4:3-4). John recognized Jesus as the Lamb of God!

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are claiming that he is characterized by that very thing. God's own Son (**1:14, 18, 3:16-18, 5:25-26, 17:5, 19:7, 20:31, 1 Jn. 4:9**). John had been convinced that the Man Jesus was the Son of God and the Lamb of God who would deal with sin and baptize with the Spirit! The function of a witness is simply to give the facts!

Jesus is the fulfiller of all the promises/predictions of the OT. He is the answer to all the sacrifices. He is who everyone needs. What we need is God's Lamb, who only can deal with our sin. We need the One who baptizes in the Spirit because we are absolutely helpless without the life and resources that Jesus is and the Spirit gives. What we need is God's Son, because the Son is the only One who can show us the Father and take us to Him.

**Read :35-39.** The 1<sup>st</sup> day was when John interacted with the religious leaders. The 2<sup>nd</sup> day John pointed out Jesus as the Lamb of God, the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit, and the Son of God. Now the 3<sup>rd</sup> day.

**:35-37 Again the next day John was standing with (lit. and) two of his disciples :36 and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" :37 The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.** John the Baptist had followers, disciples, and they had been with John on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> days, hearing his words about the Lamb of God, a Man who had existed before him, the One who would baptize in the Holy Spirit, who was the Son of God. "Look! There He is, the Lamb of God!"

Two of his disciples, Andrew and John (the writer of this book) plus the Baptist were standing together when they saw Jesus walking. John again said these words, "**Behold, the Lamb of God!** There He is, the One I've been testifying about!" He'd been preparing others for this moment for some time.

We need to find Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and think about who Jesus is and what He did. Here was the Word who became flesh, dwelt among mankind, and "**we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth...the only begotten God (1:14,18)**! How would you have responded? Hopefully as Andrew and John did. They followed Jesus! "Faith is the indispensable precondition for knowledge." This is what life and Christianity are all about, following Jesus!

John the Baptist fades from the scene; from now on, the attention is on Jesus.

**:38-39 And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?" :39 He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they came and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour [10 a.m. Roman time, 4 p.m. Jewish time].**

By asking the simplest yet profound questions, Jesus forces us to think about what we truly want in life. "What do you seek; what are you looking for?" Later he'll ask a man who's been sick for 38 years: "Do you wish to get well?"

"Rabbi/teacher (a title of respect), where are You staying?" And Jesus opens the door wide for them: "Come and see." When we come by faith, we'll see.

The writer remembers that day and even the hour. At 10:00 a.m. on a particular day, life became the adventure of following Jesus. When was your day?

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Along with John the Baptist's testimony, we now have three more witnesses: Andrew, Philip, and Nathanael (Bartholomew in the other three Gospels).

**Read :40-42 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. :41 He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah (Grk. Anointed One), (which translated means Christ). :42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John (Grk. Joannes); you shall be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter, which means rock or stone).**

Andrew, a fisherman from the city of Bethsaida, is Simon's brother. He introduces his brother Simon to Jesus! "We've found the Messiah, the Christ, God's anointed One!" They are titles & not a personal name of Jesus. This is all we have to do: tell others we've found Jesus, the Savior, the Lord. "Though often inadequate, if it is a witness to JESUS, then it's not without fruit!"

**:42 Jesus took Peter where he was. He would make him what He called him to be (later Jesus called Simon and Andrew and said, "**Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men (Mk. 1:17).**" Jesus intently looked at Simon. "Jesus read his weakness but also saw his great possibilities." Jesus accepted the impulsive Simon where he was but He said, "You shall become a rock." Cephas is Aramaic (the Greek word is Petros) for rock/stone. Jesus named him not for what he was but for what he would become. Jesus not only sees what we are but He also sees what we will become as we follow Him. In the Gospels, Peter is anything but a rock: impulsive, unstable. Yet in Acts he was a pillar of the early Church. By the way, this is not the calling of the disciples which we see in **Mark 1:16-20**. That calling was at least a year later than this.**

**Read :43-51. :43-44 The next day He purposed to go into Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow Me." :44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> day. Bethsaida was on the NE shore of the Sea of Galilee. From being where John was baptizing, to the place where Jesus was staying, Jesus is now in Galilee. "**Philip, follow Me.**" Show our faith by our obedience (in that order). Do what He asks. With our eyes on Jesus, we just have to begin the adventure of following Him.**

Andrew found Simon; Jesus found Philip. **:45 [Then] Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."** Look at Philip's words: We've found the One of whom Moses and all the prophets speak! You can't understand the OT unless you see Jesus in their writings. Jesus is the fulfillment of the OT: **Dt. 18:15-18, Lk. 24:44,45, Acts 10:43, 18:28, 26:22-23, Rom. 1:2, 1 Cor. 15:3-4, Heb. 1:1-2a, 1 Pet. 1:10-11.** Moses wrote about Him; so did the prophets. What's His name? Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph (Jesus' legal, though not his natural, father).

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:47-48 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” :48 Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” Nathanael was willing to examine for himself the claims being made about Jesus. Deceit, a snare, (OT—Jacob **Gen. 27:35** used trickery or deceit for selfish advantage). Truly Nathanael was an Israelite in whom there was no ‘Jacob’ (deceit)! Jacob was later renamed ‘Israel’.

“I saw you under the fig tree.” Either insight the Father had given Him or just saw him with His eyes, over there talking with Philip. :49 Nathanael answered Him, “**Rabbi, You are THE Son of THE God; You are THE King of Israel.**” Before the interview was even over, Nathanael confessed Jesus as the Son of God, the King of Israel. Jesus was nothing less than GOD’s own Son, plus the King of Israel, the current expectation of what the Jewish Messiah would be.

:50-51 Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” :51 And He said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.” Faith like Nathanael’s is going to be shown greater things as time passes.

‘Truly, truly’ used 25X in John’s Gospel. “Amen, ‘May it be fulfilled’, ‘Let it be’. An emphasis marker, introducing/ending a statement of pivotal importance, essential in interpreting a passage or thought.” From Biblehub.com

:51 most likely refers to **Gen. 28:12** where Jacob dreamed about a ladder from heaven. “Actual traffic between the world of mankind and the life of God.” Jesus is the link between heaven and earth. Jesus is telling Nathanael that His seeing him under the fig tree is just the beginning of what they all will see God and His angels doing with the Son of Man (37 miracles of Jesus recorded in the Gospels; John will concentrate on 7 of those ‘signs’).

Jesus is calling Himself what was promised in the OT (**Dan. 7:13-14 read**). Jesus referred to the Son of Man over 80X in the Gospels. To the Son of Man was given an everlasting dominion, glory, and a kingdom, that all might serve Him. Jesus is not only the Son of God but also the Son of Man.

Jesus spoke differently to each of these disciples, meeting them where they were. Jesus meets us where we are and will take us on.

Review the opening paragraph on page 1. Here is the Word of God who became flesh. “The ‘Jesus of history’ is the ‘Christ of faith’.” He’s introduced by John the Baptist, Andrew, John, Philip, and Nathanael. May we be added to those witnesses.

Following Him means you trust Him, you obey Him, you put yourself in His hands. That’s faith: the only thing that pleases our God (**Heb. 11:6**). In what ways does this passage renew your mind (**Rom. 12:2**)? What impact does this passage have on your daily walk with Jesus? What is one way the descriptions of Jesus impact you? What do you say about Jesus?

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